

Senators Brass of the 28th and Anavitarte of the 31st offered the following amendment:

1 *Amend the House substitute to SB 347 (LC 48 1330S) on lines 1 and 2 by replacing "Code*  
2 *Section 15-6-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the number of judges*  
3 *of superior courts" with "Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia*  
4 *Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding superior courts"*

5 *By inserting on line 11 following "authority;" the following:*  
6 *to provide for superior court judges pro tempore in certain judicial circuits; to provide for the*  
7 *appointment, qualifications, terms, duties, and employment status of such judges pro*  
8 *tempore;*

9 *By replacing lines 15 and 16 with the following:*  
10 *Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to*  
11 *general provisions regarding superior courts, is amended in Code Section 15-6-2, relating to*  
12 *the number of judges of superior courts, by revising paragraph (15.1) as follows:*

13 *By inserting after line 104 the following:*

14 *Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:*

15 *"15-6-37.*

16 *(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in any judicial circuit of this state with 15*  
17 *or more judges of the superior court, as provided for in Code Section 15-6-2, the governing*  
18 *authorities of the counties that make up such circuit are authorized to provide funding for*  
19 *up to five judges pro tempore to serve in the superior courts of such circuit.*

(b) In the event that a county or counties provide funding for judges pro tempore as provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section, the chief judge of the circuit, after consulting with a majority of the superior court judges in such circuit, may appoint qualified individuals as judges pro tempore in the superior courts of such circuit. Judges pro tempore shall have all of the qualifications provided for in Code Section 15-6-4 for superior court judges; provided, however, that such judges pro tempore shall not be elected.

(c) Judges pro tempore appointed pursuant to this Code section shall have all powers and duties of a judge of the superior court; provided, however, that judges pro tempore shall not preside over any case or matter related to a serious violent felony as that term is defined in Code Section 17-10-6.1, and further provided that the chief judge of a circuit, after consulting with a majority of the superior court judges in such circuit, may place such additional limitations on the use of such judges pro tempore in the circuit.

(d) Judges pro tempore appointed pursuant to this Code section shall be appointed to terms not to exceed two years; provided, however, that a judge pro tempore may be reappointed to succeed himself or herself.

(e) Judges pro tempore appointed pursuant to this Code section shall be employees of the county or counties that make up the judicial circuit in which they are appointed. Such judges pro tempore shall not be considered state employees for any reason, and the counties of such circuit shall be responsible for the compensation, benefits, travel, and other expenses for such judges pro tempore."

#### **SECTION 14.**